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Explorer News September 2004

La Salle University

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EXPLORER NEWS



The Newsletter of the Explorer Club

September 2004



Dr. Thomas Brennan

MESSAGE FROM DR. TOM BRENNAN, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Dear Explorer Club Members:

Greetings from 20th Street and Olney Avenue.

It is hard for me to believe that the semester has begun. As we approach a new year, it is also important to reflect on our past year. There were many special accomplishments. They are summarized in our annual report. You should have or will soon be receiving a copy. I hope you enjoy reading it.

At this time, I would also like to welcome all of our new staff members to the La Salle University Athletic Department. The 2004-05 season will introduce three new head coaches. Already in season as a first year head coach is Phil Longo, the university's new head football coach. The men's and women's basketball teams also welcome new head coaches. A new face for the men is John Giannini and a familiar face for the women is Tom Lochner. I wish all of our new coaches good luck as they begin their careers as Explorers.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the events of the summer involving our men's and women's basketball programs. Although unfortunate, I feel that the university handled the situation properly. I also want to thank the La Salle Community for supporting us through this tough time. We are excited about the future of Explorer Athletics and could not be happier with our head coaching selections.

A special thanks to the members of the Explorer Club, especially Jim McManus, Explorer Club President. The La Salle Athletic Department could not be successful without you. All of our student-athletes and coaches appreciate your support

Sincerely,

Tom Brennan

NEW LOOK ON GOLA ARENA FLOOR



We're on the web www.goexplorers.com
sports hotline - 215-951-5170



LA SALLE'S 'MAIN' MAN

La Salle University is proud to announce the appointment of Dr. John Giannini as the 18th head coach in the history of Explorer men's basketball.

Giannini comes to Philadelphia after an impressive eight-year run at the University of Maine where he built the Black Bears into a perennial force in the America East Conference. During his tenure, Giannini compiled the best record of any coach in UMaine history by going 125-111 with a pair of 20-win seasons, five trips to the America East semi-finals or better, and appearances in the AEC's championship game two of the last three seasons. The two 20-win campaigns are the only two in the programs history.

Giannini has compiled an impressive overall head coaching record of 293-149. This overall record not only includes his nine year stint at Maine, but also his seven years at Division III powerhouse Rowan College. Giannini finished his career at Rowan with a record of 168-74 and a National Championship in 1996.



LOCHNER STEPPIN' UP

La Salle University is proud to announce the appointment of Tom Lochner as the seventh head coach in the history of Explorer women's basketball.

Tom Lochner brings experience and familiarity to the Explorers program, as he returns for his 18th season at La Salle University. Lochner was an assistant coach on the staff from 1987-'98. He was the Associate Head Coach since the 1998-99 season.

Involved in all aspects of the Explorers program, Lochner has served as the recruiting coordinator and oversaw the skill development of the post players. Lochner was extensively involved in game coaching, scouting, daily practice and pre-game preparations throughout his 17 years. He also worked with the academic support staff regarding student-athlete progress.



LONGO TAKING OVER THE REIGNS

Phil Longo entered his first year as the Head Football Coach at La Salle University after serving the past two seasons as the Associate Head Coach & Offensive Coordinator. Longo will continue to coordinate an Explorer offense that has set (15) school records over the past two seasons.

Longo came to La Salle University after serving two years in a similar capacity at William Paterson University. In 2001, his offense finished as one of the top passing offenses in the country. Longo's multiple-spread offense set (37) school records at William Paterson and finished as the third highest scoring offense in school history.



ASK BUCK

It has recently been asked of me if there are any unique stories on La Salle Olympians and since the Summer Olympics have recently come to an end I felt this story was time appropriate.

Summer Olympics time in Athens, Greece, is nostalgia time for Frank Lescas, '93, a former La Salle swimmer. And why should it mean so much to him?

Well, he represented his country in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, and it wasn't as a member of the United States team. He was THE men's swimming team from Albania.

Now, Frank and his family - wife Carrie and daughters Savannah and Kylee - live in Sicklerville, NJ. After five years with the Bristol Myers Squibb pharmaceutical company, he is now with Interactive Network for Continuing Education (INCE) in Cranbury, NJ, working with companies in the education of patient treatment.

Even now, 12 years later, his participation at Barcelona is a strange story.

"I was watching the Winter Olympics," Lescas recalled, "and Tim McCarver, one of the announcers during a hockey game, mentioned that many players on the Italian team were from the United States because of their Italian heritage.

"It dawned on me that I had first relatives in Albania, who we had been in contact with. After much checking out, I was in and ready to go."

His appearance was the subject of stories in the Philadelphia media and also made Sports Illustrated. In the Sports Illustrated story following the Olympics, Frank described some of the conditions while training in Albania:

"We received 4 leks (nine cents) per day for food. There were two 50-meter pools, a 25-meter pool, a diving well and a baby pool - but no water. The 15-meter-wide diving pool was filled but there was no chlorine. Then, I began practicing in the Adriatic Sea."

Frank did not qualify in any of his three events - 50- and 100-meter freestyle and the 100 breaststroke.

Since his graduation from La Salle, Lescas worked at several country clubs in the Philadelphia suburban area, but doesn't do competitive swimming.

"I still love to swim," the Upper Dublin grad said, "but I'm busy with my job and helping to raise a family."

And about his Olympic experience?

"Obviously, I feel nostalgic when the Olympics come around. I have a lot of great memories. Maybe if I had stuck to competitive swimming, things would have worked out differently."

ON TOM LOCHNER...

"I've known Tom a long time and he's paid his dues in this profession. I'm happy that he has the opportunity to coach at a program where he's had such an impact over the last 17 years. I think he will do a great job and

La Salle is very fortunate to have him."

Joe McKeown, Head Coach George Washington University

"Tommy's familiarity with the Atlantic 10 and the staff, players and administration will make for a very smooth transition. I think he is a natural to take over the helm. I'm very happy for Tom and his family to have been given the opportunity to continue at La Salle. It will be a good feeling seeing Tommy meet us when we come in for shoot around."

Dan Durkin, Head Coach Duquesne University

"I'm so happy for Tom. I think La Salle made a great choice. He is a fine representative of their University. I have the utmost respect for him and I'm sure he will lead La Salle in a positive direction."

Tina Martin, Head Coach University of Delaware

"I am very happy that Tom has been given this opportunity. He has put in his time as a loyal assistant for a number of years. There is no question that he is fully prepared to be a head coach. The La Salle University women's basketball program is in good hands with Tom at the helm."

Harry Perretta, Head Coach Villanova University

"Tom is a perfect candidate for the position. His professionalism and knowledge of not only the Atlantic 10, but the Big 5 as well, makes him a great fit for La Salle."

Cindy Griffin, Head Coach Saint Joseph's University

...ON DR. JOHN

"We were so fortunate to have John on our staff while we were at Illinois and I attribute a lot of our success to him. In addition to all his coaching responsibilities, John excelled his share of public relations in the community. He is a highly intelligent young man with high morals. He has a keen knowledge for the game and one of the finest teachers of the game that I know. There is no question in my mind that he will do a fantastic job at

La Salle and I think he is one of the best young coaches in the game today. I think La Salle has done an outstanding job in selecting a basketball coach that will give you a winning program while maintaining a high integrity profile."

Lou Henson, Head Coach New Mexico State University

"The Atlantic 10 and Philadelphia Big 5 have been blessed with quality basketball coaches who conduct their business with great integrity and class. John Giannini will add to this legacy."

Phil Martelli, Head Coach Saint Joseph's University

"John is a great hire for La Salle. He is certainly a good fit for Big 5 basketball. I coached against him for many years in the America East and was always impressed with how well schooled his teams were. La Salle will certainly be a factor in the Atlantic 10 with John at the helm."

Mike Brey, Head Coach University of Notre Dame

"He's an outstanding recruiter. He's very creative in terms of finding guys. He always had outstanding talent at Maine. He got guys from all over the country to go there."

Jay Wright, Head Coach Villanova University

2003-04 HONOR ROLL

Chairman's Club - \$10,000 and above

Bob Bray	Thomas and Joan Fitzpatrick	William McCormick	Frostbite Regatta
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Coach's Club - \$5,000 - \$9,999

Dan Campbell	Rudolph Cartier	John Glaser	Philip Hintze
John Carabello	Leon Ellerson	Lawrence Grabenstein	Charles Lamb

Director's Club - \$2,500 - \$4,999

Jim Bagnell	Henry DeVincent	John Kent	James McManus
John Becher	Jack French	James Leary	William Mullen, Sr.
Dan Cella	Jack Gallagher	Vincent Lofink	Michael Ragan
Joseph Cloran	James Guntle	Joseph McDonald	Dennis Reid
Frank Corace	Bernadette Janis	Marc and Laura McKenna	Tom Shaw

Varsity Club - \$1,000 - 2,499

James Ahern	Michael Contorno	Bill Jones, Jr.	John McMenamin
Mark Alberta	John Costa	William Jones, Sr.	Joseph McMenamin
Henry Backe	Joseph Crowley	Don Kelly	Richard Prendergast
Jeffrey Boyle	Kevin Davis	Frank Kelly	Joseph Ridgway
Anthony Bracken	Joseph Dombrowski	Thomas Leonard	Kenneth Shaw, Jr.
Tom and Ellen Brennan	John Eisele	James Linus	John Smart
Wade and Gretchen Brosius	John Galloway	Frank Lynch	Michael Whitaker
Albert Cantello	Marianne and Fred Gauss	Joseph Mahon	Thomas White
Paul Coady	Ken Hager	John Marczyk	
Joseph Connelly	William Johnston	Eileen McGowan	

Gold Club - \$500 - \$999

Robert Bendorovich	Thomas Feerick	John Lyons	Charles Reynolds
Mark Berenato	James Flynn	Robert Lyons	Cynthia Romanelli
Robert Bohrer	Thomas Forkin	Ken Mancini	Richard Rothwell
Peter Bossow	Paul Gallagher	Pasquale Marchese	Gary Russo
Philip Brennan	Paul Gallagher	Ralph Mauro	Joseph Saioni
Gregory Bruce	Guy Giordano	Thomas McElvogue	James Sheehan
Augustine Chialastri	Lance Giordano	James McLaughlin	Scott Stickel
Bradly and Jennifer Davis	Joseph Greenberg	Kathleen McNichol	Paul Thompson
Donald DeGrazia	Thomas Haines	John Mitchell	Peter Tiano
Vincent Della Valle	Thomas Hoban	Joseph Montgomery	Michael Van Thuyne
Marie Dolan	Philip Horn, Jr.	John Mulholland	James Vendetti
William Donovan	Thomas Kean	Robert O'Sullivan	William Wolfe
Peter D'Orazio	Stephen Krauss	James Paulits	
John Dugan	Robert Kujovsky	Richard Reed	

Silver Club - \$250 - \$499

Tony Alberta	Peter and Alice Dougherty	Tom and Beth Lochner	Paul Royal
John Beal	Brian and Mary Elderton	Francine and Herb Lottier	William Seiberlich
Gerry Binder	Thomas Evich	Debbie Marks Lake	Bill Siegle
Gregory Blaszkowski	Frank Felice	Lou McCormick	Diane Spalding
William Browne	John Fitzpatrick	John McDonald	Robert Suter
Ed Cahill	Michael Frey	Michell McElroy	Anthony Verlezza
Chris and Jeannine Calhoun	Charles Greenberg	Richard Mesirov	Paul Volosin
William Campo	Kelly Greenberg	Frank Moffatt	John Williams
Francis Cataldi	Bob Kennedy	William Muller	
Charles DeFuccio	Bruce Leaby	Steven Napiecek	
Bill DeMarco	John Ligenza	Daniel Ragone	

Comments, feedback and suggestions can be sent to Peter D'Orazio, Assistant Athletic Director, via email at explorerclub@lasalle.edu or by phone at 215-951-1545.

2003-04 HONOR ROLL

Blue Club - \$100 - \$249

Robert Alden
Daniel Allan
Daniel Aquilino
Lou Beccaria
Lawrence Berran
George Beschen
John Bisco
James Boligitz
Jerome Bradley
David and Mary Bramowski
Edward Buchanan
Paul Burgoyne
Robert Casey
John Casey
Sarah Catlin
Michael Cavallaro
Mike Cavallaro
Joseph Cifelli
Randy Clark
Charles Cleary
Cesidio Colasante
Tim Collins, Jr.
Thomas Connors
James Conway
Ken Coppola
Jason Corcoran
Robert Coyle
Jill Crandley
Joseph Cunnane
Dennis Dailey
John and Chrissie Doogan
Colin Dooley
Joseph Dougherty
Tom Doyle
Charles Dunleavy, Jr.
James Durkin

Matthew Fanning
Pat Farrell
Robert Fina
Paul Flynn
Jeffrey Foose
Raymond Friedman
John Friskey
Robin Gallagher
James Gallombardo
Victor Gavin
Gene Gery
David Graham
William Grauer
Charles Greenberg, Jr.
Gary Guendelsberger
Annette Halpin
Sallyanne Harper
Troy Harry
Dean and Joan Heller
John Higgins, Jr.
Joe Hill
George Hines
Gerald Hipp, USA, Ret.
Eric Hoey
George Jakabcin
Thomas Jones
Colleen Keenan
Mike Keenan
Joseph Kelly
Joseph Kelly
Paul Kilbride
Joseph Koen
Joseph Krantz
Julie Leusner
Michael Licata
Solomiya Login

Jane Lombard
Barbara Long
Maggie Lorady
Jack Lynn
Joseph Mair
Joseph Markmann
William Matthews, III Esq.
John McCarthy
James McDonald
Kevin McGonigle
Charles McKee
Frank McNally
Bob McNamara
George Mecherly
Chester Michewicz
Gerard Molyneaux
Mimi Morgan
Bob Morrow
Joseph Mottola
Matthew Mullin
Matt Nunnally
John O'Driscoll
Charles Oettle
Andrew Pagano
Anna Marie Pagliaccetti
James Penny
Anita Plakans
Timothy Price
Martin Reardon
David Redling
Dennis Regan
Vince Reilly
J. Jeffrey Reisly
Richard Reynaud
Bill Ring
George Roeser

James Rosenberg
Gina Russo
Louis Russo
Nicholas Sandria
Al Salazar
Ellyn and Harry Salmon
David Schalleur
William Schalleur
Paul Schugsta
John Seydow
Elmer Shamwell
Donald Sharp
Frank Sipics
Tom Sottile
Kathleen Span
James Stangroom
John Stein
David Steinbach
Richard Stewart
Peter Sweeney
Michael Tarsitano
Timothy Tilson
C. Steward Tomkins
John Tracey
Donald Tuohey
Joseph and Christina Turchi
Jack Tyler
Harry Upbin
Edward Veneziale
Robert Walsh
Bernadette Weaver
Ryan Wiley
Tarleton Williams
Zane Wolf
Nick Zegestowsky

Member - \$50 - \$99

Samuel Ajaeb
Patricia Aleksinas
Colin Benner
Todd Binkowski
Raymond Bossert
Wayne Braddock
Bill Bradshaw
Joseph Bulsak
Gerald Burke
Paul Centofanti
Gerald Coghlan
Stephanie Colello
Edward Colfer
Melissa Companick
Art Dettra
Harry Diamond
Michael Duzy
Joseph Evancich
Preston Feden
James Feerick
John Feret
Richard Flanagan
John Foster
Joseph Foster
Robert France
Joseph Frazer
Jeffrey Fusco

Ann Gallagher Till
Fred Gauss
Jerry Gilbert
Joseph Gindhart
Anthony Greaver
Alexis Hamblet
Maria Hand
John Hart
Anthony Herman
Beverly Hindenlang
Beth Hudak
Roxanne Hughes
Robert Hurley
William Jacovini
Ted Jalkiewicz
William Kent
Charles Ketterer
Brian Kildee
Jennifer Klein
Jennifer Lebisky
Erin Lenox
Reed Lifka
Joseph Lynch
Meg Maley
Miriam Malloy
Dorothy McBride
Pat McCallion

Susan McCann
Michae McDermott
Thomas McGee
John McGinty
Wayne McKeever
Herbert McLaughlin
John Mellon
Neil Montovani
Thomas Moore
Patricia Moore
James Murray
Robert O'Brien
Michael O'Brien
Charles O'Connor
Mark Olkowski
Gerald O'Neill
Eugene Park
Mike Pelosi
Christopher Pickering
Robert Picollo
Walter Plagans
Richard Raab
Mike Reffner
Theodore Rogers
Sarah Jane Rooney
Maureen Royds
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Michael Salazar
Debra Salerno
Alicia Santelli
Brian Santengelo
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Thomas Yaegel

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

By: Bob Vetrone Sr.

Talking to Ira Davis '58, about his outstanding track career at La Salle, in three Olympics, the Penn Relays and even in his high school days at Overbrook, is like hearing a history of track and field. And after asking him for some highlights, you just sit back and listen.

For Ira Davis, life has been filled with highlights - competing in track and field events in three Olympics, 1958 Penn Relays Athlete of the Year, world and American record-holder in the triple jump, a 1959 trip to Africa with four other world-class athletes to help it form an Olympic team, and success in several business ventures, mainly trucking and construction.

But THE highlight?

"My experience at La Salle with the Christian Brothers as an athlete, then an assistant coach, then a head coach -- that has been the highlight of my life, and competing under a man who I considered a father, coach Frank Wetzler, then being his assistant coach and eventually being the head coach at La Salle."

As the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece, got closer and closer, naturally Ira's thoughts about his experience in the Games became even more vivid: Melbourne, Australia; Rome, Italy, and Tokyo, Japan.

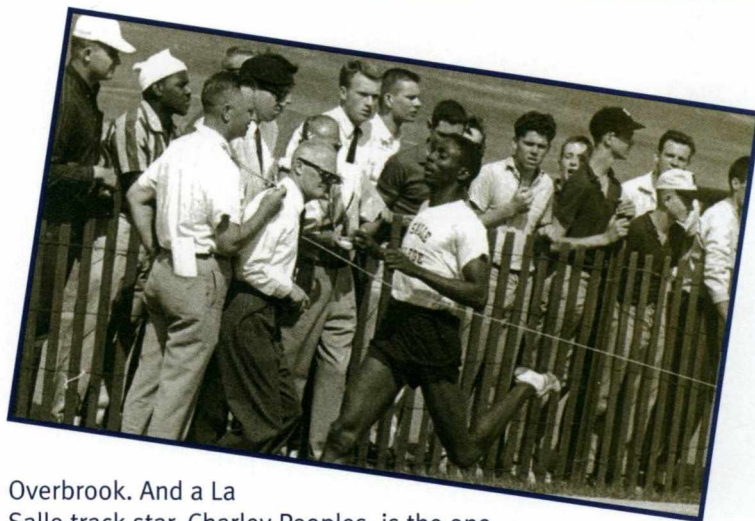
"Beside competing against the world's finest athletes," Davis said, "just to sit in the Olympic Village and talk with other athletes from all around the world, talking about their athletics, their cultures and their backgrounds was a thrill."

Current topics, especially the one concerning the use of drugs among athletes, don't escape him either.

"Drugs have no place in athletic competition," he said. "That competition should be fair; there should be no such edge like that in athletics."

Getting back to his own growing up, Davis had much praise for his coaches before Wetzler.

"A gentleman named Bob Antron worked with me on our neighborhood team and Wilford Collins was the coach at



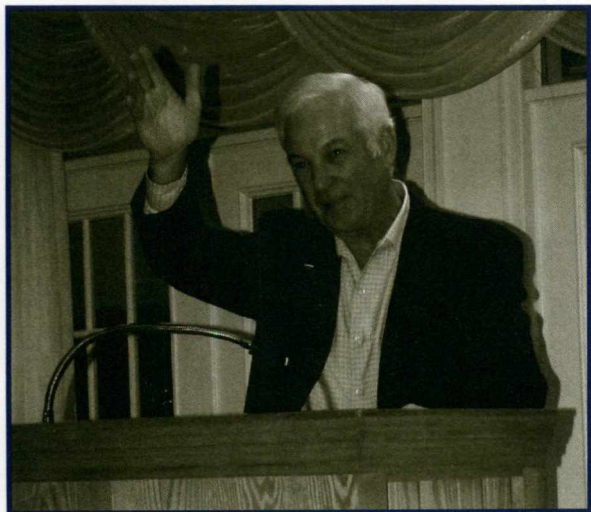
Overbrook. And a La Salle track star, Charley Peoples, is the one who told coach Wetzler about me and encouraged him to bring me to La Salle, or else I would never have gotten to college."

Another big moment for Ira was a reunion of three La Salle Olympians and greatest athletes. Director of Athletics Tom Brennan presided over the ceremony, "Ira Davis represents the type of individual that all student-athletes should aspire to be; a great athlete, leader of the community and a first class person. His visit to campus last year with Al Cantello and John Uelses was an inspiration for current members of our track teams. We hope that he continues to call La Salle home and realizes the doors are always open to him." Davis was joined in the ceremony by one-time world record-holder in the javelin and fellow Hall of Athletes charter member Al Cantello '55, and the world's first 16-foot pole vaulter, John Uelses '65 - during halftime of an Explorer basketball game.

And, who, Davis was asked, was the best athlete of those three?

For once, Ira had nothing to say.

RAFTERY ENTERS HALL OF ATHLETES



Bill Raftery (pictured left) was inducted into the La Salle University Alumni Association's Hall of Athletes, as the first ever Honorary Inductee into the Hall. He was presented with his award at the 2nd annual "Friends of Bill Raftery" Golf Outing, held at the Greate Bay Golf Club in Somers Point, NJ. Established to recognize outstanding achievement in the field of athletics, Raftery was honored for his outstanding work as a nationally recognized basketball analyst for ESPN and CBS television and radio.





The Newsletter of the
Explorer Athletic Club
September 2004

La Salle University
Department of Athletics
Hayman Center
1900 West Olney Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19141-1199



A MESSAGE FROM PETER D'ORAZIO, ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, EXPLORER CLUB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I would like to begin by thanking each member of the Explorer Club for their support of La Salle's athletic programs during this past year. Your support is greatly appreciated and goes a long way in providing assistance for our student-athletes. A complete listing of the 2003-2004 donors is provided in this issue of the Explorer Club newsletter.

I am also extremely grateful for members of the Explorer Club Board of Directors that participated in the Fund Drive this past spring. The volunteer leadership that the board displays is the primary factor for the continued success of the Explorer Club. I am always looking for individuals that wish to participate on the Explorer Club Board of Directors. Please let me know if you have an interest in serving on the board.

I am excited about our new head coaches for basketball and football. I wish them success on the playing field and look forward to helping them develop relationships with members of the Explorer Club.

Lastly, if you have not renewed your membership or made your pledge to the Explorer Club, someone from the Athletic Advancement Office will be contacting you shortly.

Again, thanks for your continued support.

Peter D'Orazio

YES! I Want to Support La Salle Athletics! Please Sign Me Up for the Explorer Club!

Name: _____ Alumnus (Year): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Business Name: _____

Business Phone Number: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Pledge Amount \$ _____ Bill me on (Date): _____

Payment Enclosed --- Check --- Credit Card
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Credit Card: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Designation (check one):

General Athletics: _____

Sport/Area: _____

____ My company is matching a gift company.

____ Please send me 2004-2005 basketball season ticket information